

Are You My Grandpa? Men of the Same Name



Rebecca Whitman Koford, CGSM - rwk.genealogy@gmail.com
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Community – Records - Methodology

A NAME IS NOT ENOUGH:

- Locations
- Occupations
- Social status & financial standing
- Handwriting & literacy
- Family & Community

STEPS TO COMPARING MEN OF THE SAME NAME:

1. Review & analyze known information; check facts in family legends
2. Create a timeline/chronology of persons with same name
3. Identify the community: relatives, associates, neighbors, witnesses
4. Identify places of residence, occupation
5. Pinpoint locations & maps
6. Collect signatures
7. Use checklists & finding aids for new ideas for records in the area
8. Identify socio-economic status
9. Use comparative tables to visualize commonalities or differences.
10. Have you done reasonably exhaustive research? Write a proof summary and it will give you the answer.

HELPFUL HINTS:

- Follow the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) - <http://bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html>
- Cite all sources fully, *Evidence Explained* format or similar is preferred
- Keep spelling intact
- Never make assumptions, make deductions.
- Not all original documentation is factual
- Learn family legends, but be willing to disprove or half-prove them. Check every fact!
- Genealogists should be the most optimistic skeptics
- Record limitations on records: burned counties, record loss, inception of vital records.
- Do not stop at indexes, always find the original.

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